

XXVII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.**Mrs. Bailey on the Birds of the Glacier National Park.*

[Wild Animals of Glacier National Park. The Mammals by Vernon Bailey. The Birds by Florence Merriam Bailey. Pp. 1-210, 36 plates, 94 text-figs., and map. Washington (Dept. of Interior, Govt. Printing Office), 1918. 8vo.]

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Bailey of the United States Biological Survey have collaborated to produce their useful and pleasant account of the Mammals and Birds of Glacier National Park. This lies in north-western Montana along the main range of the Rocky Mountains from the Canadian boundary-line south to the Great Northern Transcontinental Railway. Although the highest peaks of this portion of the range are little above 10,000 feet, the country is exceedingly rugged and rough and the low elevation of the timber-line gives it the appearance of a more lofty range.

In order to gather material for this report Mrs. Bailey spent the two months of July and August 1917 in the Park, and a good general idea of the breeding birds of the region was obtained; with this is incorporated additional material derived from the notes of Mr. G. B. Grinnell, Mr. A. H. Higginson, and other visitors to this romantic region. Over 170 species are enumerated, with notes on their rarity or otherwise, their migrations, and other observations and field-notes; these are accompanied by a number of figures and plates, many derived from Mrs. Bailey's well-known 'Handbook of the Birds of Western North America'; others from photographs by Messrs. Vernon Bailey, E. R. Warren, R. B. Rockwell, and drawings by Major Allan Brooks and Mr. Fuertes.

Brasil on New Caledonian Birds.

[Notes sur la Faune ornithologique de l'Océanie, par M. L. Brasil. Bull. Mus. d'Hist. nat. Paris for 1917, no. 7, pp. 1-13.]

This, the last work of our lamented Corresponding Member M. Brasil, has reached us through the kindness of his widow, and contains three notes on Pacific ornithology. The first

of these deals with the identification of a New Caledonian bird, named by Verreaux and Des Murs *Egretta breviceps* in 1862. M. Brasil has traced what he believes must have been the type in the Museum at Paris, and this bird is undoubtedly *Demiegretta sacra* in the white phase, or following the views of Mr. G. M. Mathews and regarding it as a distinct form in consequence of its larger dimensions, it must stand as *Demiegretta greyi breviceps*.

The second note deals with the Pacific Petrel, *Pterodroma rostrata* Peale, the type of which was obtained at Tahiti by the Wilkes Expedition in 1838-42. M. Brasil gives reasons for regarding the form found in the western Pacific, especially in New Caledonia, as subspecifically distinct chiefly on account of its larger size, and he proposes to name it *Pterodroma rostrata trouessarti*.

A third note contains a description of two proposed new subspecies of Rails from New Caledonia, *Poliolimnas cinereus ingrani* and *Porzana tabuensis caledonica*. Text-figures of the heads of the Petrels and the Poliolimnas assist materially to show the distinctions of the newly described forms.

Chubb on the Dendrocolaptidæ.

[Notes on the Family Dendrocolaptidæ, with suggestions for its division. By Charles Chubb. Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (9) iii. 1919, pp. 273-275.]

Mr. Chubb proposes to divide the large South American family of Wood-Hewers, Dendrocolaptidæ, into four, namely :—

Furnariidæ to include the ground-living birds.

Synallaxidæ for the soft-tailed bush-haunting birds.

Xenopidæ for the genera *Xenops* and *Pygarrhicus*, intermediate between the last-named and the next following.

Dendrocolaptidæ for the spine-tailed, tree-climbing birds.

The genera of each family are enumerated, and attention should be drawn to the point that these divisions and limits do not correspond with those of Ridgway.

Dixon on the Spoon-billed Sandpiper.

[The nesting-grounds and nesting-habits of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper. By Joseph Dixon. *Auk*, xxxv. 1918, pp. 387-404, pl. v. and 3 text-figures.]

The Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus*) is, so far as its breeding-grounds and nesting-habits are concerned, one of the rarest of the Waders. It is distinguished from all its congeners by the peculiar widening of the tip of the mandible, from which it derives its name and for which no one has suggested a satisfactory explanation. Until 1910 only one example of this Sandpiper, taken in its breeding-grounds, was known. This was one still preserved in the Oxford Museum, taken by Captain Moore of the 'Plover,' which, with H.M.S. 'Herald,' were two ships sent out in 1848 to search for Sir John Franklin. The 'Plover' wintered in Providence Bay, north-eastern Siberia, and did not get free until the end of June 1849, when she proceeded to Kotzebue Sound in Alaska, and although Captain Moore's single specimen has, in most of the works mentioning it, been recorded as having been obtained in Alaska, it was almost certainly collected on the Siberian side of Behring Straits. The only certain record for Alaska is that of Mr. F. Granville of Los Angeles, California, who in August 1914 took two specimens at Wainwright Inlet on the Arctic coast of Alaska; but several collectors, including Mr. Dixon, have obtained nests, eggs, and downy young at various points on the north-eastern coast of Siberia during the last few years.

Mr. Dixon, after detailing the history of the discovery of the bird, relates his own experiences and observations. He found a nest on 22 June, 1913, at Providence Bay with two fresh eggs, and about a month later another one at Cape Serdze a little farther north, with three downy young just out of the nest. The nests were on the open tundra and merely consisted of a cavity scratched out among dead grass-blades. In both cases the nests were discovered by flushing the brooding male, which appears to undertake the greater part of the household duties as in the case of the

Phalaropes. Other details are given and the nuptial flight is illustrated by a diagram, while an outline map shows the approximate position of the various breeding-places hitherto recorded, and a photograph of the breeding-grounds and of the nest with the two eggs *in situ* completes Mr. Dixon's contribution to our knowledge of this rare and little-known species.

Grinnell, Bryant, and Storer on Californian Game Birds.

[The Game Birds of California. By Joseph Grinnell, Harold Child Bryant, and Tracy Irwin Storer. Berkeley (Univ. Cal. Press), 1918 Pp. 1-632, 16 col. pls., many text-figures.]

Under this title Messrs. Grinnell, Bryant, and Storer include the ducks, geese, swans, spoonbills, ibises, cranes, rails, moorhen, coot, waders, quail, grouse, pheasants, pigeons, and doves. In the preface Mr. Grinnell, Director of the Californian Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, states the main object of the book, which is an attempt to arrest the rapid depletion of the game-birds of California by educating the public, so that they may realize how important it is to preserve the game-birds and how necessary to adhere to the already stringent game laws. The book was commenced in 1913 by Mr. Grinnell and Dr. Bryant, but when the latter was appointed elsewhere in August 1914, Mr. Tracy Irwin Storer took his place, and in collaboration with the Director worked at the book till its completion in 1916. Mr. Grinnell, in concluding the preface, remarks that "the highest plane of scientific output can be accomplished only through cooperative effort," with which we entirely agree.

In the preparation of the book, the authors have endeavoured to meet the requirements of the hunter, naturalist, legislator, and conservationist. With these ends in view, chapters are devoted to the decrease of game, natural enemies of game, propagation of and legislation concerning game-birds in California. The decrease of game-birds, which has been observed for the last thirty-five years, appears to be most pronounced among the ducks

and geese. Estimates received from various sources give an average of a 50 per cent. decrease in the case of the ducks, while in the geese the estimates are higher and average a 75 per cent. decrease. Quail, Mourning-Dove, Californian Clapper Rails, and Long-billed Curlew are among those species whose numbers have been seriously reduced, while the Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse is now apparently extinct in California. The decrease of the game-birds is attributed to a combination of causes, but primarily to the sale of game in the open market, which is now prohibited except in the case of the geese and ducks, and the authors are anxious that these also should be included in this legislation.

A glossary of special terms used in the book, followed by a dichotomous key (for identification of Californian game-birds only), precedes the general account of the various species which occupies the greater part of the book. A chapter is devoted to each species and in every case is preceded by small-type paragraphs with the following headings:—"description" (namely plumage of the species, soft parts, measurements), "marks for field identification," "voice," "nest," "eggs," "general distribution," and "distribution in California." Descriptions are given of the adult male and female. In the Waders, where many species have a distinct summer-dress, descriptions of both summer and winter plumage are included; the juvenile plumage is dealt with as briefly as possible, and is followed where material is available by a description of the natal plumage. The colours of the soft parts are described with the plumage, which we think a pity as it entails reading some of the description before ascertaining colour of eyes and bill. We should also have liked more information about the eclipse plumage in the ducks, which in some species, *e. g.* American Wigeon, is not referred to at all, and in some others is disposed of by saying it resembles the plumage of the female, no points of distinction being given.

In some instances, what is described as the juvenile plumage of certain ducks undoubtedly refers to the first

winter plumage: *e. g.*, the juvenile plumage of the Red-breasted Merganser is described (page 84) as "similar to that of adult female but with a tuft of black and white marked plumes in evidence on side near bend of wing," a character which we find is only developed after the post-juvenile moult. In the Harlequin also, the description of the juvenile male undoubtedly refers to the first winter male; while in the American Golden-eye the juvenile male is described with the white spot before the eye more or less indicated, a character which in the European Golden-eye (from which the American Golden-eye differs only in size) we have only observed in first-winter birds. Another criticism we have to make is that in describing the winter plumage of the waders the differences which exist in some species between adults and first-winter or immature birds are in some cases overlooked.

The general account in large type which follows contains information on migration, habits, food, etc., and the distinguishing characters of the species, nests, eggs, etc., are dealt with in greater detail than is possible in the small-type paragraphs which are primarily for reference.

There are sixteen coloured plates, twelve by Mr. Louis Agassiz Fuertes and four by Major Allan Brooks, and many useful text-figures.

Direct quotations are interpolated in the text with the object of assuring greater accuracy, and a list of literature cited is appended.

We congratulate the authors on the amount of information they have collected, and we sincerely hope the book will impress upon the public the need, both from the economic and sentimental point of view, of preserving the game-birds of California.

Gurney on Norfolk Ornithology.

[Ornithological Notes from Norfolk for 1918. Twenty-fifth Annual Report by J. H. Gurney. *British Birds*, xii. 1919, pp. 242-257.]

Owing to the loss of observers and military restrictions on the coast, Mr. Gurney's most useful summary of bird-

events in Norfolk has suffered somewhat. The county is to be congratulated on having recovered the Bittern, the Cormorant, and the Curlew as breeding-birds, though there are still a good many which nested regularly a hundred years ago which have never returned as breeding-birds: such are the Kite, Bustard, Avocet, and Black Tern.

In addition to the satisfactory increase of the Bittern, the Great Crested Grebe, Shoveler, Gadwall, and Bearded Tit are all becoming more numerous—in all cases the result of protection.

Among the rare birds noted in 1918 were the Caspian Tern, the Avocet, the Yellow-browed Warbler, and Richard's Pipit. Spoonbills still come each year in small numbers to Breydon Broad, chiefly in May and June, and would probably nest there if allowed a chance of doing so.

Mr. Gurney in his notes gives the Bullfinch a bad name as most destructive to the buds and blossom of fruit-trees, especially of the Black Currant, which are grown in large quantities as a field-crop in parts of Norfolk.

R. Gurney on Nomenclature.

[Modern Zoological Nomenclature. By Robert Gurney. Trans. Norfolk and Norwich Nat. Soc. x. 1919, pp. 335-352.]

In this thoughtful and well-balanced little essay Mr. Robert Gurney criticizes somewhat severely our modern methods of nomenclature, taking as his text the divergences in practice between Witherby's 'Handlist of British Birds' and the B. O. U. List; but after all, when his examination is complete, he finds that most of the differences are due to differences of opinion on points not affected by the rules, but which must always remain a matter of individual opinion—such, for instance, as to whether a particular form shall be regarded as a subspecies or a full species, or again as to the identification of an ancient description.

Perhaps the best instance of the latter is the question of the correct name for the Garden-Warbler. The Handlist uses *S. borin*, undoubtedly the older name, but according to the B. O. U. Committee, Daubenton's figure and description

cannot be identified with the Garden-Warbler and so they propose to use the later name, *Sylvia simplex*. No rules can be devised to settle a question of this sort.

Mr. Gurney discusses the well-known case of the transference of the name *Turdus musicus* from the Song-Thrush to the Redwing, and here we do feel that the field-naturalist and others interested in more general aspects of zoology have a genuine grievance. As has been recently pointed out by Prof. Lönnberg in 'The Ibis,' the name *Turdus musicus* Linn. occurring in literature, unless in some way further qualified, must always be of doubtful meaning, and we are inclined to adopt Prof. Lönnberg's suggested solution (Ibis, 1919, p. 367) and give up the name *Turdus musicus* Linn. altogether as indeterminable.

But although Mr. Gurney brings very heavy artillery to bear on the Rules adopted by the International Zoological Congress and shows up many of their shortcomings and imperfections, when it comes to suggesting a remedy he does not do much to help us. Of the amendments to the code which he proposes, the first is merely an amiable and pious wish; the second is very frequently adopted in the naming of the earliest name if any doubt exists as to its identification; the third, as regards the interchange of names between two genera or species, we have every sympathy with but we regard it as very difficult of application in many cases; the fourth proposed amendment in regard to larval forms does not affect names in ornithology.

Kuroda on a new Parus.

Description of a new subspecies of *Parus varius* from Nijima, one of the Seven Islands of Idzu, by Nagamichi Kuroda. Dobutsugaku Zasshi (= Tokio Zool. Mag.), xxx. 1918, pp. 322-3.]

Mr. Kuroda sends us a short paper containing in Japanese what is apparently a list of birds from Nijima or Niishima, one of a small group of islands off the coast of Japan near Tokio. Among the birds was one which he regards as a distinct form, and describes in English under the name of *Parus varius namiyei* after the original collector.

Lönnerberg on Hybrid Gulls.

[Hybrid Gulls. By Einar Lönnerberg. Ark. Zool. Stockholm, xii. no. 7, 1919, pp. 1-22, 3 pls., 2 text-figs.]

Examples of hybrid gulls appear to be uncommon or, at any rate, have seldom been commented on, and the instances quoted by Dr. Lönnerberg show that there is less fundamental difference between the black-mantled and the grey-mantled gulls than is generally thought to be the case.

The first group of hybrids described were the offspring of a male *Larus fuscus* which mated with a female *L. leucopterus* in the Zoological Gardens at Stockholm in 1912 and 1913; the hybrids are figured in their first, second, and third years, the last being practically adult. In this bird the mantle is darker than that of the female parent, but much paler than that of the male; while the feet retain the pinkish colour of the mother. The bearing of these facts is discussed by Dr. Lönnerberg at some length, and he regards the coloration of the hybrids as a reversion to that of the ancestral forms.

Another series of hybrids between *Larus marinus* and *Larus glaucus*, bred in the Zoological Gardens at Copenhagen, are also described; these agree in general coloration and wing-pattern with a gull now in the Copenhagen Museum, obtained in Greenland and labelled by Dr. Winge, "*Larus marinus* × *glaucus* (= *L. nelsoni*)."

Menegaux on Bird-Protection.

[L'Ami des Oiseaux. Petit manuel de protection, par A. Menegaux. Pp. 1-35. Paris.]

From M. Menegaux we have received this little pamphlet on the protection of birds useful to agriculture. After a short introduction, the various methods for encouraging and stimulating the increase of bird-life such as nesting-boxes, feeding-trays, and special plantations, are enumerated. This is followed by a list of terms employed in descriptions

and measurements, and finally the reasons why it is so necessary to protect both resident and migratory forms.

The protection of birds in France is carried out under a convention agreed to by most of the European States, but excluding Great Britain, Russia, Italy, and the Netherlands, in March 1902. This convention was ratified by the French government in 1905, and has the force of law. It is printed in full in the present pamphlet, and is followed by a list of useful birds which are strictly protected and by a second one of harmful or destructive birds which are not protected.

Palmer on the A. O. U.

[The American Ornithologists' Union. By T. S. Palmer. Amer. Museum Journ. New York, xviii. 1918, pp. 473-483.]

In order to make the American Ornithologists' Union better known among those who are not familiar with it, the Secretary, Mr. Palmer, has written this little sketch of its foundation, present condition, and future aims and objects—what it has done and what it proposes to do. An interesting historical group of portraits of the founders and officers in 1883 including Baird, Elliot, Lawrence, and Coues, and many others, some of whom are still with us, brings back pleasant memories of past friends.

Porsild on "Savssats."

[On "Savssats": a crowding of Arctic Animals at Holes in the sea-ice. By Morten P. Porsild. Geogr. Review, New York, vi. 1918, pp. 215-228.]

Savssat (pronounced s'set) is an Eskimo term meaning crowding or overcrowding, and is used by the natives of Disco Bay in Greenland to denote a phenomenon which occurs occasionally: the ice from Baffin Bay gradually closes in and meets the ice at the head of Disco Bay, and large numbers of whales and other animals become enclosed in narrow pools of open water. Finally the animals become entirely frozen in, and the Eskimos reap a rich harvest.

Birds are sometimes surprised in this way. Mr. Porsild states that Eider Ducks are often seen crowded by hundreds into very small openings, and they appear to be always able to make their escape; but the Guillemots and Little Auks are not so fortunate. If a Guillemot Savssat occurs near the shore the birds are all captured by the Eskimo; if the hole be far from any settlement the whole flock gradually perishes by the freezing up of the water. The matter is an interesting one, and the account given by Mr. Porsild is well worth the attention of ornithologists.

Robinson and Kloss on Sumatran Birds.

[Results of an Expedition to Korinchi Peak, Sumatra. Part ii. Birds, by H. C. Robinson and C. Boden Kloss. Journ. Fed. Malay States Museums, viii. 1918, pp. 81-284, pls. iv.-vii.]

This is a very important paper and will have to be consulted by all students of the avifauna of the Indian Region. It contains the results of an expedition undertaken by the authors in 1914 to the high mountain peak of Korinchi in the western end of Sumatra.

Large collections of all the orders of Vertebrata were made, and the results will fill the eighth volume of the Journal of the Federated Malay States Museums. But little is told us in the present fascicule about the actual journey or about the physical aspects of the mountains, which rise to about an elevation of 12,000 feet; but a careful comparison is given between the mountain-avifauna of Korinchi, of Kinabalu in Borneo, and that of the mountains of the Malay Peninsula and Java, the general conclusion being that the relations between the Javan and Sumatran peaks is much closer than to those of Borneo, while in addition to the Javan element there is a small proportion of species of recent continental origin found in the Himalaya and mountains of Tenasserim and the Malay Peninsula which have not spread to Borneo and Java. The greater part of the paper is taken up with the list of species, 186 in number, obtained by the expedition. These are thoroughly discussed with references to Sumatran literature, field and taxonomic

notes. A number of the more striking new forms discovered were described in the Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society in 1916, but a certain number of additional forms from Sumatra and elsewhere are here noticed for the first time, viz. :—*Turdinulus epilepidota dilutus*, *Notodela diana sumatrana*, *Parus major malayorum*, *Zosterops difficilis*, all from Sumatra ; and *Pnoepyga pusilla harterti*, *Tephrodoris pelvica annectens*, *Bhringa remifer attenuata*, from the Malay Peninsula.

Four coloured plates by Grönvold illustrate the more interesting forms obtained, including the female of the handsome Pheasant, *Acomus inornatus* Salvad., which had not previously been obtained or described ; *Gecinus dedemi* van Oort, only known up till now from the type-specimen obtained by Baron van Dedem in the Battak mountains of north-eastern Sumatra ; *Cochoa beccarii*, only known from the types obtained by Beccari on Mt. Singgalang thirty-five years ago ; the handsome Ground-Thrush, *Pitta schneideri* Hartert, the female of which was previously unknown ; *Dicaeum beccarii*, *Cryptolopha sumatrensis*, and *C. muelleri*, first obtained and described by the authors themselves in 1916 ; and *Cettia sumatrana*, also obtained by the authors of this paper, but first described by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant.

Following the list of species is a table showing the distribution and altitude of the birds collected according to station, a list of nests and eggs, and finally a carefully compiled and valuable list of all the birds certainly known to occur in Sumatra. These number 526 as compared with Borneo's 535 and the Malay Peninsula's 630.

Swarth on new forms of Fox-Sparrow.

[Three new subspecies of *Passerella iliaca*. By H. S. Swarth. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 31, 1918, pp. 161-164.]

This paper contains the preliminary description of three new subspecies—*Passerella iliaca mariposa*, *P. i. julva*, and *P. i. canescens*—from different localities in California, and is to be followed by a thorough revision of the whole group.

Van Oort on the Birds of Holland.

[*Ornithologica Neerlandica. De Vogels van Nederland, door Dr. E. D. van Oort. Pts. 3 & 4, pp. 57-120, pls. 21-40. 's Gravenhage (Nijhoff), 1918. 4to. Price 12½ Gld. each part.*]

The second instalment of Dr. van Oort's great work on his native birds carries us through the Cormorants, Herons, Storks, and Ibises to the Swans. Holland is fortunate in retaining four of the birds here described as regular breeders—the Little Bittern, the Bittern, the White Stork, and the Spoonbill—all of which, except perhaps the Bittern, which seems to be re-establishing itself, formerly bred in the British Islands but have now left us.

In the series of plates, not only are the adult males and females but in many cases the young birds also are represented. The most successful to our taste are the Heron, Bittern, Stork, and Flamingo. In the more darkly-coloured birds the reproduction does not appear to us to be quite so successful, and the screens used in the photographic processes seem to be rather too coarse. On the whole, we see a decided improvement in the illustrations as compared with those of the first two parts.

White on Ornithological Trips in Australia.

[*Ooldea, on the East-West Railway. On the flooded Murray River, and other sketches. By Captain S. A. White. Pp. 1-88; many photos. Adelaide [1918]. 8vo.*]

In this little booklet Captain White recounts his adventures during three trips made by him along the great trunk railway recently completed between Adelaide and Perth, the respective capitals of South and West Australia. The first one, performed in January 1917, was to the end of the completed track just short of Ooldea, while the last one in the following December was made after the line was completed. Bird-life was very scarce owing to the dry condition of the country, but efforts were made to investigate the advance of the English Sparrow, which though a pest in South Australia is unknown in Western Australia,

and which it was feared would spread there along the newly constructed line. Captain White, however, could not detect any Sparrows about Ooldea itself. An interesting observation was the finding of many nests of the Barn-Owl (*Tyto alba delicatula*) in the wells and natural blowholes round Ooldea.

Another portion of the volume contains some sketches of the country along the flooded River Murray and the birds met with there.

Wiglesworth on Somerset Heronries.

[The Heronries of Somerset. By J. Wiglesworth, M.D. Proc. Somerset Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc. lxiv. 1918, pp. 68-85.]

The earliest reference to a Somerset Heronry is found in the Survey Roll of Glastonbury Abbey, which was probably drawn up about 1540 and in which the birds were said to have nested in the "Mannour of Merc"; but they have long since vanished from there, and have left no traces beyond what is mentioned in the Roll.

At the present time the number of occupied heronries within the county are four only, while two others have been deserted within recent years. These are located respectively at: Brockley Park near Bristol; Pixton, Dulverton; Halswell Park near Bridgwater; and Somerton Erleigh near Somerton. The largest is the last-named, and Dr. Wiglesworth, who visited it in March last year, estimates the number of nests at about eighty.

After visiting all the sites, Dr. Wiglesworth believes that the Heron is diminishing as a breeding-bird in the county, and he puts the decrease down to the ban of the angler, since these birds undoubtedly do feed largely on fish and at times may do considerable harm to fisheries, though the damage is generally exaggerated. It is also probable that the destruction of their breeding-grounds by the recent felling of timber due to the exigencies of the war has had an inimical effect on their numbers. It would be indeed a lamentable thing if the Heron should become extinct in the British Islands, but we hope there is no immediate danger of this happening.

The Bombay Journal.

[The Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society, xv. nos. 1-5. March 1917-Dec. 1918.]

The last completed volume of the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society is a stout tome of over 700 pages and contains much that is of interest to ornithologists as well as to students of other branches of Natural History. From Mr. Stuart Baker we have in each number a part of his valuable account of the Game-Birds of India, twenty-four of which have now been published. Each is illustrated with a coloured plate, those of the present volume representing *Gallus sonnerati*, *Gennaus albocristatus*, *Phasianus himia*, and *Pucrasia macrolopha*. A very careful revision of the species and subspecies, with full descriptions and carefully selected field-notes of other authors as well as the results of his own observations, constitute a most complete history of these magnificent birds, and we hope when the series of articles are completed that we shall see them in book-form.

The country lying between Manipur and the southern Chin hills in Upper Burma is still but little known ornithologically. It consists of steep heavily-wooded hills rising to about 7000 feet, and is very difficult of access. Messrs. J. C. Hopwood and J. M. D. Mackenzie, both of the Indian Forest Service, have made several excursions into the region, and contribute a list of the birds and the eggs obtained with many notes of considerable interest.

A useful article is one by Mr. C. H. Donald on the Raptores of the Punjab, in which he endeavours to provide keys for the easy identification of these difficult birds, not only when killed but also when seen on the wing. No fewer than fifty-five species are mentioned in the list as occurring in the Province. Another article dealing with the Punjab avifauna is from the pen of Mr. H. Whistler, who contributes some notes on the birds of the Ambala or Umballah district.

From Mesopotamia we have a few notes on the Game-Birds from Capt. C. M. Thornhill; and there are a large

number of shorter notes of less importance, the most interesting being from Mrs. Hall on the nesting-habits of the Hornbill *Lophoceros birostris*, the facts regarding which appear to be still far from accurately known. Mrs. Hall notes that after the eggs had been hatched the female bird left her prison and assisted the male to feed the young birds, which were again imprisoned by plastering up the entrance to the nest. Mrs. Hall states that the female on emerging from the nest-hole was by no means in bad condition and bedraggled, but in beautiful plumage. The young birds were fed on a varied diet of insects, possibly mice and lizards, as well as various vegetable substances. The whole account is most interesting.

Journal of the Museum of Comparative Oology.

[The Journal of the Museum of Comparative Oology. Vol. i. nos. 1-2. Santa Barbara, Cal., U.S.A. March 1919.]

We must very heartily congratulate our brother ornithologists of Santa Barbara, California, on their enterprise in starting a Museum, with its attendant journal, on Oology, a science which has been grievously neglected, though collectors of eggs are so numerous. In the foreword the Editors of the Journal write:—"The Museum . . . has set itself the task of accumulating the phylogenetic evidence offered by the eggs of the birds of the world." Truly an ambitious programme, but the enterprise is backed abundantly both by brains and financial means and surely deserves success. Criticism at the present stage of the scheme is hardly fair or necessary and, if the rules laid down are adhered to, may never be required; but in view of what is said on page 15 as to the policy in acquiring material, we might suggest that deductions may be more important and more reliable if drawn from the normal rather than from the abnormal. "We are after the significant only." So the paragraph referred to runs; but it must be remembered that a series of the normal egg may signify far more than a clutch of aberrant eggs. Ill-health, over-production,

and a hundred and one other causes may govern the production of one aberrant egg or of one clutch of such eggs, but the causes of normal coloration, shape and texture are far deeper and far more worth while investigation.

The present double number deals practically with the collection and exhibition of eggs, but in future numbers we shall look forward to seeing the "why and the wherefore" of various oological points dealt with and explained.

We wish the Museum and Journal the greatest success, and recommend the latter to all oologists for careful study.

Tori.

[*Tori* (*i. e.* Birds). The Journal of the Ornithological Society of Japan. Vol. i. nos. 1-5; vol. ii. nos. 6-7.]

To the courtesy of Mr. N. Kuroda, F.M.B.O.U., we are indebted for a complete set of the Japanese journal of ornithology, which we are very glad to see, though we fear we are unable to read the contents. Each number contains about 30 pages of text in Japanese and a good many half-tone illustrations from photographs and generally a coloured plate, and the whole is executed in a most artistic manner.

The first number contains a picturesque coloured figure of the Pheasant-tailed Jacana, which however, so far as we are aware, is not found in Japan. The second number has a paper on the birds of the Pelew, Marianne, and Caroline groups of the western Pacific, recently taken over by Japan from the Germans. There are descriptions of two new subspecies by Mr. Kuroda—*Collocalia fuciphaga rukensis* and *Halcyon chloris vanikorensis*, which are figured in colour. The descriptions of the new forms are also translated into English, and the list is partly in English. Another number has a description of a new Woodpecker, *Dryobates leucotos quelpartensis*, from Quelpart Island in Korea Straits, by Mr. Kuroda and Mr. T. Mori, also translated. Another paper contains the account of the interesting Shelduck, *Pseudotadorna cristata*, which has already been noticed in our pages (Ibis, 1918, p. 732).

It would make the journal of much greater use and give it much more importance if those responsible for editing it could be persuaded at least to publish a translation of the list of the contents of each number.

Mr. Kuroda has already shown the way by printing his descriptions of new forms in English as well as Japanese, and we hope other authors will be induced to do the same.

May we conclude by wishing our new contemporary "Tori" a long life and a prosperous career!

Trans. Norfolk Nat. Society.

[Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society. Vol. x. pt. 4, 1917-18; February 1919.]

The Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society will celebrate its Jubilee this year under the presidency of our old friend Mr. J. H. Gurney, and we must congratulate the members of what must certainly be one of the oldest provincial societies on their flourishing condition and on the excellence of their journal.

The most important ornithological paper in the present number is undoubtedly one by Miss Turner on the breeding of the Bittern in Norfolk. For many years, in fact since about 1868, the Bittern has been extinct in Norfolk and the British Islands as a breeding-bird, though a few have been noticed every winter in the "Broads" district.

Since 1911, though no nest was actually found until 1917, there is no doubt that the Bittern has recommenced breeding in the "Broads" district, and there seems to be every chance of its complete re-establishment. Miss Turner's paper is full of the details of the nesting-habits and early life-history of these extraordinarily interesting birds, and is illustrated by six plates reproduced from her photographs. It should be read by all. The booming of the Bittern, which has been mentioned by so many writers and poets apart from ornithologists, can now again be heard, and a most remarkable sound it is—something to our hearing between a fog-horn and a donkey's bray.

In a shorter article Mr. B. B. Rivere deals with the habits

and plumage-changes of the Red-backed Shrike as observed on two nestlings taken from the nest and hand-reared. A coloured figure of the juvenile plumage, reproduced from a sketch by the author, illustrates this note.

Mr. A. H. Patterson contributes some observations at or near Yarmouth for the year 1917, but military reasons have much restricted his rambles. A paper by Mr. Robert Gurney on nomenclature is noticed separately.

Yearbook of the Dutch Bird Club.

[Club van Nederlandsche Vogelkundigen. Jaarbericht, no. 8. Deventer, 1918.]

As in the past this Yearbook is edited by Baron Snouckaert van Schauburg, the President of the Club, who himself contributes several articles. The first of these consists of his annual report on events of ornithological importance from October 1917 to September 1918. He mentions the occurrence of a good number of Slender-billed Nuthatches in October and an unusual number of Woodcock during the winter, while the breeding of Red-necked Grebe is confirmed. Special rarities recorded are the Lesser Grey Shrike, the eastern European Buzzard *Buteo buteo ruficaudus* (= *B. b. zimmermannæ*), and the Iceland Gull. In other shorter articles Baron Snouckaert discusses the races of the Cordon Bleu (*Uraginthus bengalus*), the exact significance of the variation of *Perdix perdix* named *Tetrao damascenus* by Gmelin, and other matters.

Another contribution, signed A. H., deals with the succession of birds noticed in the rice-fields of Java and Sumatra during the different seasons and periods of cultivation; while Baron van Heeckeren describes and figures the curious egg of the Klecho Swift, *Macropteryx longipennis*, lying in a hollow of the branch of a Soerian-tree (*Cedrella*).

Reproductions of photographs of a Snipe on its nest, a Jackdaw's nest, and eggs of the Kentish Plover at the Hook of Holland help to enliven a very good number of this Yearbook.

List of other Ornithological Publications received.

- HAVILAND, MAUD D., and PITT, FRANCES. The Selection of *Helix nemoralis* by the Song-Thrush (*Turdus musicus*). (Ann. Mag. N. II. (9) iii. 1919, p. 525.)
- RILEY, J. H. Six new birds from Celebes and Java. (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 32, 1919, p. 93.)
- STONE, W. Birds of the Panama Canal Zone, with special reference to a collection made by Mr. Lindsey L. Jewel. (Proc. Acad. Philad. 1918, p. 239.)
- WARREN, E. R. Bird notes of a stormy May in Colorado Springs. (Condor, xxi. 1919, p. 62.)
- WITHERBY, H. F. (edited by). A practical Handbook of British Birds. Pts. 2 and 3.
- Archivum Melitense. (Vol. iii. no. 7, 1918.)
- Auk. (Vol. xxxv. no. 2, 1919.)
- Avicultural Magazine. (Third Series, Vol. x. nos. 6-8, 1919.)
- Bird-Lore. (Vol. xxi. no. 2, 1919.)
- Bird Notes. (Third Series, Vol. ii. nos. 3-4, 1919.)
- British Birds. (Vol. xii. nos. 11-12; vol. xiii. no. 1, 1919.)
- Condor. (Vol. xxi. no. 2, 1919.)
- Emu. (Vol. xviii. nos. 3-4, 1919.)
- Fauna och Flora. (Vol. xiv. nos. 1-3, 1919.)
- Le Gerfaut. (1919, fasc. 1.)
- El Hornero. (Vol. i. no. 3, 1918.)
- Irish Naturalist. (Vol. xxviii. nos. 3-6, 1919.)
- Journal Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. (Vol. xxvi. no. 1, 1918.)
- Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam. (Vol. iii. no. 2, 1919.)
- Rev. Française d'Ornithologie. (Nos. 119-120, 1919.)
- Scottish Naturalist. (Nos. 87-90, 1919.)
- South Australian Ornithologist. (Vol. iv. no. 1.)
- Der Waldrapp. (Vol. i. no. 1, 1919.)

XXVIII.—*Letters, Extracts, and Notes.*

South African Hawks.

SIR,—In an article I have recently sent you for publication on the South African Accipitres I have questioned whether the European Peregrine could be included in the South African Avifauna; but I at the same time drew attention to the fact that the late Mr. J. H. Gurney had recorded this species, from time to time, from South Africa.